

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 AID-05 AGR-05 IGA-01 SS-15

NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00

STR-04 TRSE-00 /073 W

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R 021247Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5853

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 3195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID CA MO

SUBJECT: PL-480 REQUEST: MOROCCAN TRADE WITH CUBA

REF: STATE 143581

1. MINFIN PHONED AMBASSADOR JUNE 19, SAME DAY REFTEL RECEIVED, TO SAY HE'D HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB THAT U.S. PL-480 DECISION HELD UP TWO WEEKS PENDING RECEIPT ADDITIONAL DATA. OFFERED FULL FACILITIES HIS SECRETARIAT TO OBTAIN NEEDED DATA. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS INFORMATION RECEIVED:

A. BREAKDOWN 1974 MOROCCAN EXPORTS TO CUBA

BTN	COMMODITY	METRIC TONS	DIRHAM VALUE
07.05.41	CHICK PEAS	2750	3,952
09.10.20	BAY LEAVES	60	115
12.07.99	DIVERSE HERBS	90	169
16.04.50	CANNED SARDINES	291	7,062
25.10.11	CALCIUM PHOSPHATE (NATURAL)	4900	10,392
31.03.40	TRIPLE SUPER-PHOSPHATE	2000	5,850
45.04.20	CORK PANNELLING	266	463
87.06.30	AUTOMOBILE RADIATORS	51	1,050
US \$1 EQUALS DH 4.4 (1974) TOTAL (THOUSANDS) DH29,052			

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ALL ABOVE EXPORTS PRIVATE EXCEPT PHOSPHATES WHICH ARE MONOPOLY OF STATE-OWNED OFFICE CHERIFIEN DES PHOSPHATES (OCP).

OCP OPERATES, HOWEVER, AS PRIVATE-SECTOR CORPORATION WITH COMPLETE AUTONOMY (FIRM PAYS CORPORATE TAX).

2. TRADE DATA FOR FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1975 (NOT BROKEN DOWN) SHOW TOTAL VALUE OF DH2.9 MILLION, SHARPLY DOWN FROM DH12.7 MILLION FOR SAME PERIOD 1974. MOROCCAN IMPORTS FROM CUBA FOR FIRST TWO MONTHS ARE ABOUT LEVEL (DH 29.7 MILLION JAN-FEB 1975 VS DH 28.5 MILLION JAN-FEB 1974). WE BELIEVE FALL IN PHOSPHATE SALES ACCOUNTS FOR DECREASED EXPORTS. IMPORTS OF SUGAR AND CIGARS REPRESENT TOTAL IMPORTS. OVERALL, WE JUDGE CUBA TRADE WILL REMAIN AT ABOUT 1974 LEVELS UNTIL PLANNED MOROCCAN SUGAR REFINERIES COME ONSTREAM OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

3. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED NO RPT NO MOROCCAN SHIPS OR PLANES HAVE BEEN USED TO CARRY ABOVE CARGOES.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS FEBRUARY 1975 ASSESSMENT ON MOROCCAN ADHERENCE TO PL-480 AIRCRAFT/SHIPPING PROVISIONS (STATE 30456) ARE STILL VALID.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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